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National Agricultural Statistics Service

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Hawaii Taro Millings

A Quarterly Report of Taro Milled for Poi

Taro for poi millings continue to increase

The Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service estimates poi millers utilized 1.6 million pounds of taro during the fourth quarter of 1999, down 8 percent from the third quarter but 21 percent more than the fourth quarter of 1998. Total taro for poi milling is estimated at 6.2 million pounds for 1999, up 15 percent from 1998.

Weather conditions were generally less than favorable during the final months of 1999. A large Kona storm brought some heavy showers to parts of the State in mid-October. Flash flood warnings were posted for parts of Kauai and Oahu where two to five inches of rain fell within a 24-hour period. Another Kona storm brought additional rains to Kauai in early November. Flooding was reported in the Hanalei area. The generally wet weather continued into December with another round of heavy rains during the early part of the month. For the most part, the flooding episodes that occurred during the final quarter of 1999 were short-lived and did not cause any significant losses. Overcast skies associated with the wet weather and cool temperatures, however, may have had a greater impact on taro plants by reducing sunlight and fostering an increase of Phytophthora on leaves.

Monthly Taro for Poi Millings, State of Hawaii, 1994-98 average, 1998, and 1999.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
<i>1,000 Pounds</i>													
5-year average ¹	429	401	418	394	379	385	414	440	451	471	458	500	5,140
1998	470	430	470	425	390	430	460	490	510	425	450	450	5,400
1999	480	450	500	450	480	500	560	600	580	520	530	550	6,200
<i>Percent</i>													
<u>Percent changes:</u>													
1999/5-year	112	112	120	114	127	130	135	136	129	110	116	110	
1999/1998	102	105	106	106	123	116	122	122	114	122	118	122	

¹ Years: 1994-98.

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Monthly Taro for Poi Millings

State of Hawaii

1998, 1999, and 5-year averages

